

BYRON L. DORGAN  
NORTH DAKOTA  
713 HART SENATE OFFICE BUILDING  
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-3405  
202-224-2551  
202-224-9378 TDD

COMMITTEES:  
APPROPRIATIONS  
COMMERCE, SCIENCE & TRANSPORTATION  
ENERGY & NATURAL RESOURCES  
INDIAN AFFAIRS

CHAIRMAN, DEMOCRATIC POLICY COMMITTEE

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-3405

## STATE OFFICES:

312 FEDERAL BUILDING  
THIRD AND ROSSER AVENUE  
P.O. BOX 2579  
BISMARCK, ND 58502  
701-250-4618  
1-800-666-4482 TOLL-FREE

112 ROBERTS STREET, ROOM 110  
P.O. BOX 2250  
FARGO, ND 58107  
701-239-5389

102 NORTH 4TH STREET, ROOM 108  
GRAND FORKS, ND 58201  
701-746-8972

100 1ST STREET, S.W., ROOM 105  
MINOT, ND 58701  
701-852-0703

June 17, 2004

Gary Nelson  
State Director  
North Dakota Farm Service Agency  
U.S. Department of Agriculture  
1025 28th Street SW  
Fargo, ND 58108

Dear Gary,

It appears from the early survey information coming from North Dakota counties that well over a million acres of North Dakota cropland may not have been planted because late spring storms dumped massive quantities of water. In addition, there is evidence that there are a large number of farmers in some pockets of North Dakota that were able to plant, only to have the fields washed away by those same storms.

In order for us to begin evaluating what actions if any the Congress should consider, I would appreciate receiving the updated county-by-county survey information about this issue.

I have also asked the Secretary of Agriculture to send a review team to North Dakota to evaluate the consequences of prevented planting and failed acres; and to report on what we can expect from the Risk Management Agency (RMA) in terms of coverage for providing some assistance to our farmers who are suffering these losses.

The development of this information will allow us to determine how Congress might respond. The weather has once again dealt a pretty heavy blow to some family farmers who should not have to bear the consequences alone.

The first step is to fully understand what we are facing. Thank you for your agency's work in trying to assess the consequences of this damage.

Sincerely,



Byron L. Dorgan  
United States Senator

*Thanks for your good work Gary!*